



Spc. Robert Adams

Memorial service held for fallen MP

Spc. Robert Adams
Staff Writer

Family, friends and fellow Soldiers gathered for a memorial service honoring Spc. George D. Harrison was held at Marne Chapel Dec. 8.

Harrison of 293rd Military Police Company, 3rd MP Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division lost his life Dec. 2 due to injuries received while clearing a house during a patrol with his unit and Iraqi Police in Mosul, Iraq.

"We gather here today, to pay tribute to this young man, and acknowledge his heroism and bravery as a Marne Soldier," said Lt. Col. Samuel P. Mansberger, 3rd MP Battalion commander. "According to Harrison's leaders, he was an outstanding Soldier on and of the battlefield and always believed in completing the mission."

Harrison is the son of Kim and Doug Harrison and had a brother Josh. He enlisted in the Army September 28, 2002, after graduating from Carter High school in Knoxville, Tennessee.

"When Harrison got to Fort

Stewart, he hit the ground running as he volunteered to deploy with other replacements in support of the 3rd MP Company taking part in OIF 1," Mansberger said. "Though this deployment was cancelled due to the return of the division, it speaks highly of his commitment and confidence in himself and his unit."

He deployed with his unit to

Iraq on March 6 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 3. He was a gunner and driver for his company, and he conducted frequent patrols with the Iraqi Police and as well as public relations duties within the city limits of Mosul.

"For the last nine months, from patrols in Mosul to video games in the barracks, we

spent a lot of time hanging out talking about the past and the future," said Spc. James Wetherford, 293rd MP Co. "Dan was a great Soldier who did his job well, and more importantly was a great person."

Wetherford said, "I know that anyone that had the honor of knowing Dan will never forget him, and everyone in the platoon will miss you and never forget you."



Buisness as usual

Stewart to keep working during deployment

Pfc. Ricardo Branch
Associate Editor

Despite the absence of numerous Soldiers, business will continue as usual on Fort Stewart, said Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, 3rd Infantry Division commander during a Rotary Club meeting Dec. 7 in Hinesville.

"The division will be gone, but Fort Stewart will still bring in Soldiers to train and mobilize for operations in Iraq and demobilize the units returning back from serving in Iraq to their posts," Webster said.

He said that the Army plans to keep Stewart active with the training of 6,000 to 8,000 Soldiers and 12,000 Soldiers to demobilize during 3rd Infantry Division's mission in Iraq.

Although the division will be gone, 2,300 Soldiers from garrison and rear detachment will remain on Stewart to help conduct the day to day affairs of running the installation, along with 7,000 civilain contractors currently working on post.

Although a big concern for many officials of the Hinesville community, schools are currently not witnessing a rise in withdrawals, as seen in the last deployment.

"I think the majority of families will want to stay here," Webster said.

He explained that the support channel for the Soldiers is here, which will have a hand in helping families.

With the division less than a month away from deploying to Iraq, many people will want to help wish the Soldiers off, but Webster asked the community members attending the meeting not to plan any large farewells or sendoffs.

"The Soldiers will want to spend this time with their families and with a long deployment, we want to make sure they can spend as much time as possible with them," he said.

First Stewart Soldiers deploy to Iraq

Pfc. Ricardo Branch
Associate Editor

With the redeployment to Iraq on the horizon for the 3rd Infantry Division, some Soldiers said their goodbyes early and board a C-17 plane bound for Kuwait Saturday evening from Hunter Army Airfield.

The Soldiers, a small part of the Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Signal Company, 1st Detachment, are part of an initial group sent to help pave the way by ensuring that overall communications are in place prior to the division's arrival for theater operations.

"We're going now to make sure the division has everything in place to be able to effectively accomplish the mission in Iraq," said Staff Sgt. Sean Higgins, STB, 3rd Sig. Co.

"I'm ready and anxious to get this going," he said.

Higgins added, the Army may call on you one day to serve your country and you can only expect that the day will eventually come.

As the group of Soldiers from 3rd Sig. Co. left earlier in the day, morale was extremely high, while some did leave



Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Arrington, STB command sergeant major sees off Soldiers deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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Weather Forecast

FRI

High 62° Low 41°

SAT

High 59° Low 34°

SUN

High 55° Low 26°

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3rd Inf. Div. brings cheer to wounded veterans

Pfc. Dan Balda

4th Brigade

Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division and members of Hinesville-area veteran groups brought some Christmas cheer to disabled veterans at the Carl Vinson Veterans Administration Medical Center in Dublin, Ga., Dec. 8.

"It's been the tradition of the 3rd Infantry Division for the last 20 years to come down here," said Brig. Gen. Karl Horst, 3rd Inf. Div. assistant division commander (maneuver). "A lot of the residents don't have family in the area, but the military is a family and we wanted to remind them of that."

Soldiers distributed holiday gift baskets donated by the Liberty County Veterans Organization (VFW Post 6602, American Legion Post 168 DAV Chapter 46, VVA Liberty Chapter 789, etc.) to the residents to remind them that regardless of how long ago they served their country, their brothers and sisters in arms remember their sacrifice, Horst said.

Holiday cards and drawings were also sent to the VA residents from Child Development Services at Stewart, Hunter and Taylors Creek Elementary School in Hinesville.

Traditionally the Soldiers wear their Class A uniforms but this time they wore their Desert Combat Uniforms. This was not an accident Horst said.

"We wanted the Veterans to be mindful of what these Soldiers are preparing to do," Horst said. "It's important to link the past and present, and making this trip is a very powerful way to start the holidays."

Horst visited with some of the residents, swapping stories and presenting some of them with a coin of excellence for the time they spent in defense of their country. Some of the Soldiers wiped away tears as they listened to the stories of those that came before them.

Ray Humphrey, a World War II veteran, told Horst about his fond memories of driving Gen. Clarence Armstrong around Europe after the conclusion of hostilities.

"I drove him to Monte Carlo and he took me to the casino with him," Humphrey said. "We also went to Rome so he could meet the Pope, but I didn't care to much for that, I'm Baptist."

After visiting with the residents, Soldiers could be seen pushing residents in wheelchairs to the auditorium for a Christmas concert put on by the Dublin High School Jazz Band.

Horst addressed the audience, specifically the veterans before the concert began.

"We are carrying on the legacy of the wars you fought in," he said. "Please think of these Soldiers as many of them are going to Iraq for the second time to fight the global war on terror."

After Horst's speech, Reginald Ferguson, the director of the band, told the audience it was his and the bands distinct honor and pleasure to play for the veterans and Soldiers.

The band began the concert by playing "I'll Be Home For Christmas," and continued on with other Christmas favorites such as "White Christmas", and the theme from Peanuts. The band was treated with a standing ovation at the conclusion of their concert.

Horst finished up the concert by saying, "What these Soldiers are doing now is just as important as what you did. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers."

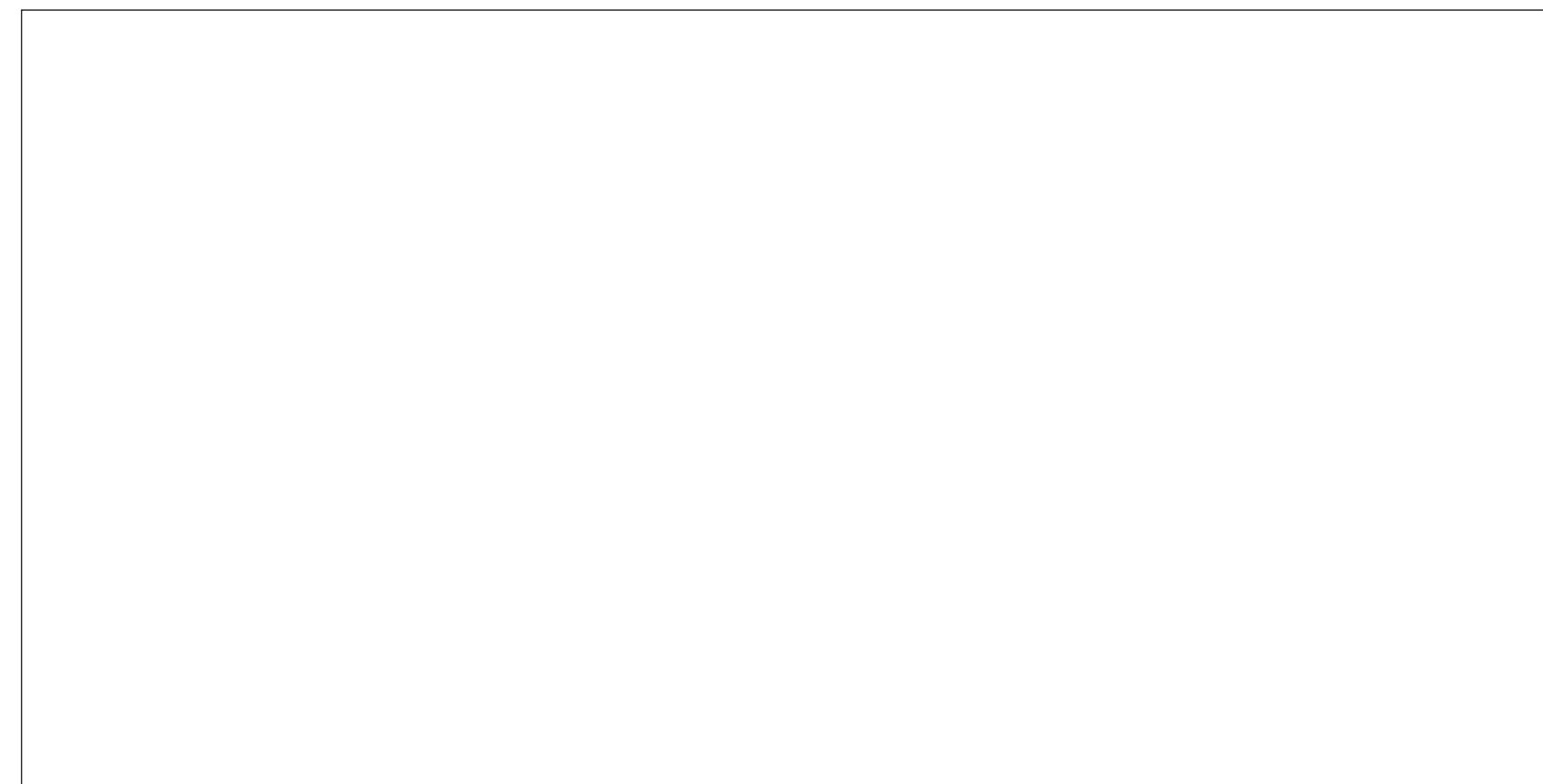


A resident of the hospital receives a coin from Horst.



Photos by Pfc. Dan Balda

Brig. Gen. Karl Horst, assistant division commander (maneuver) shares a laugh and a coin with Ulyesses Albritton, a Vietnam-era Army veteran at the Carl Vinson Veterans Administration Medical Center Dec. 8.



A member of the Dublin High School Jazz band plays a saxophone solo during the Christmas concert.

Brig. Gen. Karl Horst, 3rd Inf. Div. assistant division commander (maneuver), speaks with Robert Allen, retired military police.



Members of the Dublin High School Jazz band play for the veterans during a Christmas concert.



The 3rd Inf. Div. Color Guard stands at attention during the Veterans Administration Medical Center Christmas Concert.

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Marne Six Sends

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr.
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

Secretary Rumsfeld held a town hall meeting with more than 2,300 civilians and troops at Camp Buehring on December 8, 2004. A Soldier raised the issue of armored vehicles. The commander of 3rd Army and Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC), Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, briefed the Pentagon press corps via video-conference from Kuwait on December 9, 2004 on the topic of armored vehicles. I would like to share with you some of the highlights from that briefing on this important topic:

In August 2003, anti-Iraqi forces began to use more improvised explosive devise attacks against Coalition troops and primarily

against convoys moving throughout Iraq. The enemy knew they would lose in face-to-face engagements with our forces.

Aware of the change in enemy tactics, techniques and procedures, commanders responded to increase troop safety requirements and the Army's leadership took action.

Production of level one HMMWVs (HMMWV with protective glass and armament on sides, front, rear, top and bottom - known as the "up-armored" HMMWV) was increased. The production line ramped up its capability from 15-30 vehicles a month to a level of 450 a month. Almost 6,000 up-armored HMMWVs are in Iraq now. We will sign for many of them when we get to Iraq.

Commanders across the Army began programs of

what is called level two armor or "add-on" armor. Add-on armor gives protection on the front, rear, bottom and sides of the vehicle, plus the glass. Add-on armor can be added either in theater or stateside. There are about 10,000 vehicles in theater with add-on kits not counting what we will take. We will also for many of these vehicles in Iraq.

A level three vehicle is a "hardened" vehicle. The hardened vehicles have steel plates cut and bolted onto the vehicle. The focus for most level three armor has been Army trucks used in combat operations. There are about 4,500 hardened trucks supporting combat operations. Our 3ID trucks will be hardened in Kuwait.

The theater has set the goal that all wheeled vehicles leaving Kuwait that are

being driven by Soldiers have some level of armor protection. Vehicles that are level one and two will stay in Iraq and do not return to Kuwait.

Our planning and preparations to harden and add-on armor to our vehicles has produced nearly 900 home station level two vehicles that we will deploy in support of our combat operations.

We have been preparing for Operation Iraqi Freedom in multiple ways since last fall. We are well equipped to meet the task at hand. I am confident that we are the best division in our Army.

Have a Great Holiday and lets not forget our four hundred plus Marne teammates who are in the combat zone right now.

Mission.....Soldiers.....Teamwork!!!

MARNE SIX OUT

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

"What is your New Year's resolution?"

"To keep my sanity and not yell at the kids while my husband is deployed."

Tonia Lambert
Spouse



"To be much nicer to people."

Spc. Marshall Kemper
D. Co., 4/64th Tanker



"Since I just got back from a 14-month deployment in Iraq, I just want to get home to Atlanta."

Sgt. 1st Class Mike Moore
335th Theater Signal Systems Command Analyst



"Come home alive from Iraq."

Spc. Robert Rodriguez
3rd Bde. Troops Battalion Combat Engineer



"To be a better Christian and pray harder."

Sara Lee
Retired Spouse



"Continue writing my book of poetry entitled 'All of Me' and to be the best mom I can be."

Sgt. 1st Class Twiwanda Devauld
NCOIC of Orthopedics, MEDDAC



Joint holiday message from SecArmy, CSA

Gen. Peter Schoomaker and Dr. Francis J. Harvey

Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army

During this Holiday Season we honor our Soldiers for the sacrifices they make while serving our great Nation at home and throughout the world.

For more than two centuries American Soldiers have preserved liberty for our citizens and our Nation's friends. Our Army has a long and proud history that pre-dates the Republic - from the battlefields of Lexington and Bunker Hill to Shiloh and Bastogne, to Baghdad and beyond. American Soldiers have stood firm against those that would deny basic human dignity to those less fortunate.

American Soldiers continue to display unrelenting tenacity, steadfast purpose, confidence, and heroism on a daily basis, just as they have for over 229 years. No matter the place or time, our Soldiers remain the centerpiece of the Army. They are indispensable, the Army's heart and soul. As General Creighton Abrams noted three decades ago, "People are not in the Army, they are the Army." It was

true then, it is true today, and it will remain true tomorrow.

Generations of young men and women have joined the ranks of America's Armed Forces. Heirs to a sacred and noble legacy, the belief that freedom is not free, they answer the call to arms and serve the Nation with courage and commitment. And they continue to add glory to the shining tradition of the American Soldier.

Our Soldiers are warriors of character, reflecting the values of the American people, and serving the greatest Nation on Earth. We pay tribute to all the American men and women who have served so faithfully during our Nation's times of danger. Through your sacrifices, you have made possible for millions of your fellow citizens the freedom, democracy, and the unmatched opportunity that we all enjoy in the United States today.

May each of you have a safe Holiday Season. God bless each of you and your families, God bless our Army, and God bless the United States of America.



BUSTER'S BATTERY



Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!
Send to:
Public Affairs Office
Attn: The Frontline, Editor
894 William H. Wilson Ave.
Building 600C
Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-4941
or fax it to 912-767-9366.

THE FRONTLINE

MILITARY NEWS: 767-3440
ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526
Volume 19, Number 50
Publisher
3rd Infantry Division Commander — Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr.

Consolidated Public Affairs Office

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Frontline are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Forces Command. It is published weekly using offset printing by the Public Affairs Office, Fort Stewart, Georgia

Director — Lt. Col. Clifford J. Kent
Deputy Director — Richard Olson
PAO Supervisor — Master Sgt. Gregory Kaufman
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31314-5000. Phone number: 912-767-3440 or 767-8072
Printed circulation up to 22,000. All editorial content of the Frontline newspaper is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3d Infantry Division and is printed by Morris Newspaper Corporation of Hinesville, Inc. a private firm in no

1st Bde. — Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
2nd Bde. — Spc. Ben Brody
3rd Bde. — Pvt. James E. Lewis
4th Bde. — Pvt. Dan Balda
Hunter Public Affairs Office
Chief — Steven Hart
Advertising Staff
Advertising Manager — Maryann Wilson
Frontline Production Manager — Juanita Vandenbosch

way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates are \$9 for three months, \$16 for six months and \$30 for 12 months. Rates are for third class mail, inside the continental U.S.

Warriors need to market their product to the media

Maj. D. L. Wright

Deputy PAO / PLANS

We are a nation at war. Our division prepares to fight our nation's battles in one of the most asymmetric, fluid, contiguous environments we will probably see this century. We, collectively as a military family, continue to be taken for granted by the media...most of you will agree, but take this thought a step further and look within yourselves, take a deep breath, and accept the fact that this predicament (being taken for granted) is for the most part a self-imposed, self-fulfilling prophecy, and will continue unless all of us make every effort to be proactive with the media. It is always easy to point a finger at the media when we do not understand their agenda, or their agenda is not the same as ours.

As with any business or fiduciary venture, we want to work an acceptable profit. Income tax returns, investments, seeking the best credit card interest rate, all done with careful forbearance and research for a palatable outcome. Why are we not using the same approach with the media? Our words and exchanges with the media are money in the bank, or blank checks. Write a bad check, you expect the bank to penalize you. Say the wrong thing the wrong way to the media, you can expect to pay the price. I have lost track of the amount of media I have dealt with over the years, but the common denominator which leads to a less than favorable outcome with the media is attributed to working with the media in a defensive posture instead of an offensive posture.

Warrior Ethos

The Soldier's Creed supports our warrior ethos, most of us know it by heart, we all live it, but we can never see it in print often enough:

"I am an American Soldier. I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values. I will always place mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade. I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself. I am an expert and I am a professional. I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat. I am a guardian of freedom

and the American way of life. I am an American Soldier."

When we raised our right hand, we decided to take on a challenge that was bigger than us. While it is our right to know why we are fighting this war, always remember that if selfless service and loyalty are more than words to you, fighting for your brother and sister is always more important than satisfying political curiosity. We all know that in the field of battle, there is no room for political discussion or debate, even if supported by well intentioned responses to the media. Please reread the Soldier's Creed and tell me where political curiosity fits in with "I am a Warrior and a member of a team." Additionally, please do not confuse commitment to duty with being brainwashed. We are all entitled to our opinions, political and otherwise but the battlefield is not the time and place to express them, especially when media is within earshot.

Our political opinions in print or on television do nothing for marketing efforts, nor do they help your brother and sister clear a building full of insurgents; the same insurgents who saw that political opinion in the media and may view it as a weakness in our morale conviction and courage.

Consistency and commitment are not written tenants to Warrior Ethos and our Army Values, although they should be. We are not in the business of rewriting our Army Values to fit every political agenda. Why? We are all dedicated to supporting something larger and more important than any political agenda.

Keep warrior ethos in the front of your mind when engaging with the media. It is your legacy, and the base to successfully marketing your product to the media. You, the Soldier are the product, the US Army's most important asset. Don't ever let the media forget that either. The Warrior Ethos will always enable us to engage the media offensively, and set the conditions for a positive and sometimes favorable outcome.

The Media And You

I challenge this division (dependents and civilian work force included) to follow ten simple rules when it is game-time with the media. Although neither I, nor any other public affairs or public relations practitioner can promise a favorable outcome or story, you can expect balance which is always part of any credible

reporters "ethos."

•If there is a reporter around all statements and actions are "on record." Every single encounter with the media counts. Every single utterance, thought, opinion shared with the media, or a member of the media counts, and is "on record", even if the reporter is a dear friend or relative.

•You have every right to own YOUR interview. Go on the offensive; take the initiative to tell your story. We can not decide the media's agenda, but we can formulate ours.

•Insurgents (Enemy) have access to the media.....Your political or personal opinions although endearing are always seen as a sign of weakness, and only adds to fuel any success the enemy may be having. Be proud of your personal beliefs and opinions...keep them that way (personal), unless you honestly believe you can guarantee the enemy will not exploit them for misinterpretation and it can help your brothers and sisters in arms.

•The people we are seeking to help in Iraq have access to the media. Always keep this in mind. Formulate a response which is empathetic, if not sympathetic to the people of Iraq.

•The media is not a toy...it is a weapon. We are all taught that if you point a weapon, you better intend to use it. Same applies for the media. Know where your words are taking you and your unit.

•More often than not, a response is always better than an answer. We always hear that no-one has all of the answers. A response always provides you the flexibility to put your message across more effectively.

•Keep it simple ... listen to your PAO. We are not all scholars and thespians. Avoid "pontificating." Public affairs officers always provide simple talking points that allow you to speak simply so we can all understand. It also will keep you from putting your foot in your mouth.

•We are all public relations officers. We market the business of fighting and winning our nation's battles through combat operations or support and stability operations (peace enforcement, peace keeping). This is our product. It is a great product. Our standards and ethics stand head and shoulders above any civilian organization or business. Product is the bottom-line in any successful business, public relations promotes product. It stands to reason that

your comments to the media should support our product. Your comments to the media should market it.

•Do not ever have a defeatist attitude for any media engagement. Any reporter worth their grain can smell defeat, or displeasure in dealing with the media. My parents taught me to always have something nice to say, even if you don't mean it. Use your talking points, more than twice if needed.

•We are all capable of engaging the media. Cooperate and graduate. It is always your prerogative to choose not to deal with the media. Just always be prepared to understand what message is sent if you do not talk with the media. Even silence sends a certain message; sometimes an unintended message.

I would never expect every member of this division or the extended Fort Stewart community to become experts in dealing with the media. What I would expect, however, is that more care thought and consideration is given to engaging the media. Avoid becoming the victim of (the media) or being taken for granted by the media. It is always too easy to blame someone else for our shortcomings. No matter what your job, status or role is in our community we are all capable of doing this. We are a nation at war, and every facet and element related to this war is too important to overlook. This includes our engagements with the media. Don't sell yourself short, market your product to the media.

I am proud to have the privilege and honor to serve with the most professional Soldiers in our United States Army. Those Soldiers are in this division. The Marne division. May God continue to bless this division, the Soldiers and families of this great division, and we all continue to have the strength to do his will.

Media Awareness Training

It is never too late to hone our media interaction skills, and boost our confidence in dealing with the media. Soldiers, family members and civilian employees who desire additional media awareness training should contact their Unit Public Affairs Representative, or brigade public affairs teams. The address and phone number to the Fort Stewart Consolidated Public Affairs Office is: Public Affairs Office 894 William H. Wilson Avenue Building 600B. Phone: 912-767-7111.



Jimmy D. Lane Jr.

Port vehicles load 1st Bde. cargo containers onto the USNS Sisler to be shipped to Kuwait Nov. 29.

Raiders ship out equipment

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane, Jr.

1st Bde.

As part of the upcoming deployment to Iraq, elements of the 1st Brigade Raiders took vehicles and equipment to the port in Savannah to be loaded onto a ship during the last two weeks of November.

Two of the Navy's largest ships, the USNS Sisler and the USNS Seay, will load more than 514,000 square feet of military cargo to be shipped to the Middle East for Operation Iraqi Freedom 3, according to Trish Larson, a Military Sealift Command representative.

"The ships are 950 feet long, each with seven individual decks for storage," Larson said. "The stern ramps are made to swing to either the port or starboard side of the ship for maximum loading advantage."

"There are also cranes on the front of the ship to load cargo containers. The only ship the Navy has that is larger than this one is an

aircraft carrier, which is about 100 feet longer than these cargo ships," she added.

The two ships were used during OIF 1. The ships are noncombatant, and together have been used to move more than 2,139,000 square feet of military cargo in support of the Global War on Terrorism, Larson said.

A crew of civilian contractors, or Merchant Marines, runs the ships.

Some of the crew will be armed.

Along with the civilian crew, a small group of Soldiers will also ride along to contribute to security.

"These guys are giving up time with their families over the holidays to be a part of this crew, so they are sacrificing a lot," said Maj. Eric Shaw, brigade logistics officer

Soldiers from 1st Bde. took their wheeled vehicles to the port in a convoy, while the track vehicles were transported by train

"The overall loading will take about four and a half days," Shaw said. "That will be to

load each ship. It will take two ships to transport all of our equipment, including helicopters."

There were a few challenges to be faced as 1st Bde. prepared for the movement.

"We haven't done anything on this scale since Operation Desert Storm," Shaw said. "Commercial shipping, technology and regulations from the Coast Guard, as well as other agencies, have changed since then. But the civilians and personnel back at Fort Stewart have helped us prepare for those changes."

Once the equipment arrives in the Middle East, it will still have a journey to make before it reaches its final destination.

"It will take about a month for the equipment to arrive at a port in Kuwait," said Maj. Kelly Donna, 1st Bde. Aviation Element. "From there the vehicles will go through a series of checks. The Soldiers will then drive the vehicles to their prospected destinations."

Deploy

from page 1A

their friends and family, they know they are ready.

"Our team here is 100 percent confident in each other, and have trained a long time for this," said Spc. Robert Williams III, a member of the 3rd Sig. Co. "We know we'll be able to get the job done and be ready for the division to follow us."

Williams, having gone once already to Iraq during the division's previous deployment, said he isn't bothered much by the long deployment.

"I know what I'm doing is important and serves a vital role for the division to conduct its daily affairs in day-to-day operations in theater," Williams said.

"Communications is critical to the success of the division and serves as a backbone for all operations; it's what's needed to get things done, so it is of utmost importance to make sure it's up and running for the Soldiers before they get there," Williams said.

The Soldiers received a sendoff at Stewart earlier that morning and boarded the plane with Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Arrington, STB command sergeant major, and Maj. John Moelter, company commander, wishing them off.

"The Soldiers leaving today are helping make essential services available and ensuring everything is up and 100 percent operational for the division," Moelter said.

He added, "They've trained for this, know what to do, and have better equipment, I've no doubt and am confident they are ready and will get the job done."

Beside every good Soldier, there is a good family member

Jennifer Wingfield

Managing Editor

At concerts, crowds look forward to the rise and fall of his musical baton as the band plays in syncopation to the treble and clef notes on the pages in front of them. After completion of their astounding melodious rendition, the bandmaster usually turns to the audience and accepts the applause or ovations lauded upon the whole group.

Most of the time, somewhere out in the audience, one particular person swells with pride for each and every member of the band, but especially for the bandmaster.

Sherrell Catchings, wife of the 3rd Inf. Div. Bandmaster and commanding officer, Chief Warrant Office 3 Fred Catchings, never tires of listening to any of her husband's performances. For over 21 years, she has been there supporting her husband in all of his Army endeavors.

Their history goes back to high school. No, not as high-school sweethearts. They were only in the same homeroom and band class. After that it was off their separate ways to college: Sherrell to Knoxville College in Tenn., majoring in English; Chief Catchings to Fort Valley State College earning a Masters in music.

It wasn't until their tenth high school reunion that they really took notice of each other. "I couldn't believe Fred was the same person that I had known four years in high school," Sherrell said. Chief Catchings added in his own words, "I was a nerd and a runt."

It still took a while for them to get together, but knowing that they would be working as teachers at the same middle school then, made it easier. "Because we had lunch room duty, we ate our lunch early and developed a friendship. We found out through conversations that we had both pledged to a fraternity (Sigma) and sorority (Beta) that were brother and sister to each

other," said Sherrell. "I was the remedial reading teacher and since he was the band director, he would ask me to chaperone band trips. We became good friends and started dating."

"Ask anyone now from our high school days and they still cannot believe that we are married to each other. I was the more outgoing, on-the-go, extrovert. Fred was the shy, quiet, introvert," Sherrell said.

The transition from schoolteachers to a life in the military was shocking, Sherrell said. "One day, out of the blue, Fred came home and announced that he had resigned his job and joined the Army. I looked at him and said, 'You did what!?' I never envisioned myself being affiliated with the military."

Sherrell never had a clue as to what the military was about. She had never been around or knew anyone who had been in the military. After the shock wore off, Sherrell resigned herself to the new situation. "Okay, this is my husband and I love him. If this is what he wants to do, then we are going to try this."

Fortunately the first duty station for the Catchings was at Fort Benning, which was only 90 miles away from their respective home towns of Baconton and Camilla, Ga. But with the short distance from home, Sherrell said she still felt isolated. "It took me a while to get acclimated to the military lifestyle. Fred had explained that he wanted to be a bandmaster and that it would take a while, having to start at the bottom of the totem pole and work his way up. This included lots and lots of long hours."

Sherrell continued, "I don't know how many people are familiar with the workings of the band, but every time they go off to work or play somewhere, the junior enlisted have to be there to set up, stay late, pack and set up instruments for rehearsals, and the like. A lot of times I was by myself with the kids. It took a lot of transitioning."

But by the second and third year of military life, Sherrell was adjusting. "I started to meet people." During the course, the Catchings had three children, now following their own careers. Not in music though, as one would think. Ashley is a graduate of Liberty County High School and is a freshman at Valdosta State University. Nichole is in the US Navy serving on the USS Ronald Reagan, and son Lihu (lahoo) resides in Tennessee.

The deployment and separation for Operation Iraqi Freedom One was a hard experience for Sherrell. "It was one of the most difficult times of my life. I compare it to childbirth, because it was just that difficult for me."

"I just couldn't imagine sometimes not being able to talk to him or see him or touch him when I wanted. That to me was the most difficult part. I didn't really worry about any harm coming to him, as I had to call upon my belief in God, being raised a Baptist. I prayed for him and put him in God's hands to keep him safe and to strengthen me. Even though I did all of this, it was still difficult to let him go."

The night Catching left for OIF 1, Sherrell still had many pent-up emotions roaming through her. "I just walked around the house. I realized this was not like a temporary duty when I know he is coming back at a certain time. My sanity was with the thought process that if he went this time, he wouldn't have to go again. Even though I knew that he could be called up to go, you never really get comfortable with that thought. One just must accept and try to maintain a normal life."

Another deployment looms for the Catchings family in a matter of weeks. How does she perceive this one? Sherrell said, "I'll just put him in God's hands again."

Personally, Sherrell says she is a strong person. She is available as a support mechanism for the spouses of the other members of the band who have Soldiers deploying also.



Jennifer Wingfield

Sherrell and husband, CW3 Fred Catchings, 3rd Inf. Div. band director, put the finishing touches on their dining table as they discuss past Christmas memories.

Sherrell was busy working with Army Community Services during OIF 1 as a volunteer coordinator. "I applaud ACS for their efforts because they touch all aspects of the Soldiers life. Working with them gave me a chance to see the inner workings of a deployment. All the agencies came together to help the spouses left behind. Dealing with spouses on a daily basis, you got into their lives. We were able to give advice and steer them in the direction to get help if they needed it."

This time Sherrell will be working as an academic facilitator at the Army Education Center. There she helps Soldiers with resources to raise their GT and ASVAB scores, CLEP tests, or even assistance in tutoring.

Conversations between Sherrell and her husband are broad. And she says that her husband's shyness has converted to calmness.

When it comes down to supporting her husband, Sherrell maintains she stands proud to do so. "I tell

people that as long as my husband is doing something for the band, I will be there. I try to go to as many functions as within my power and schedule. Even when the kids were smaller, we would be a part of the crowd. They would sit and enjoy the concerts."

Her philosophy for the stay behind wife remains firm. "I tell them not to tell the children, 'Wait until daddy gets home'. Because he is in the military, the discipline, rules and regulations remain up to you. Family activities and responsibilities continue while he is away. When they return, then you can defer and discuss. But for right now, you are in charge."

"As I look back, the time supporting my husband with the military has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. I've gotten very comfortable with it. I don't know how I would survive outside of the military lifestyle. The bonds made with new people and families are lasting," Sherrell concluded.

Sculpture Commemorates 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq

Sgt. Christina Rockhill

American Forces Press Service

BAGHDAD — "Securing the Future," the name of a new memorial being sculpted for Fort Hood, Texas, explains it all.

Lt. Col. Frank Caponio, 1st Cavalry Division personnel officer, said it was important to choose an idea for the sculpture that rolled up everything the division was doing in Iraq.

"We wanted to come up with a bronze monument that would capture the essence of what we're doing here in Task Force Baghdad for the Iraqi people," Caponio said. "We had many different pictures that we reviewed, and we finally found one that we thought captured everything we wanted. It showed soldiers who were protecting a child and at the same time were engaged in a combat operation."

The memorial will be a life-sized bronze sculpture, and will include the names of the division's fallen soldiers. The monument will be placed outside division headquarters at Fort Hood and should be finished by the time the troops head home, officials said.

The sculpture is based on a photo of a situation involving troops from the 545th Military Police Company. In April, the soldiers were escorting an explosive ordnance disposal team in Baghdad when a crowd of children gathered around them. The soldiers were ambushed, and five or six mortars hit where the children were standing. The soldiers had to jump into action, simultaneously helping the wounded and securing the area.

"I think that this scene captures that, in the sense that you see us and we're in mode of protecting. We're rendering aid to this child who has just been wounded by the mortar, and we're at the same time providing overwatch over the scene," Caponio said. "So what we're saying is, 'We're going to protect you now and get you on the road to peace for the future so you can take over.'"

Caponio said it was important to the division to include children in the memorial. "We wanted to use children, because we think that's the future," he said. "If we can affect the lives of these children right now, they'll be able to carry on democracy for the future."

The two soldiers in the picture chosen for the sculpture are Sgt. Matthew Tuttle and Sgt. Joshua Wood. Wood was the soldier providing security, while Tuttle, a

medic, was helping an injured child. They said they are honored to represent the division's efforts in Iraq.

"It feels weird," Wood said. "There are probably people out there who deserve it more than I do." Wood, from Crosby, Texas, said that day he didn't even hesitate before running out into the crowd of children to help them.

"Most of the kids were my son's age, which I think was the main reason that I think I ran out into it," he said. "If they were my kids, I'd want somebody to help them."

Wood said the military is a family affair for him. His father is stationed at Camp Victory in Baghdad with the 3rd Armored Corps, his little brother is stationed with the 82nd Airborne Division, and his sister is in the National Guard. He said both his brother and sister are scheduled to join him in Iraq this month. He hasn't told them he will be immortalized as part of the sculpture, however. "I think it'd be hard for them to understand, until they come here," he said.

Tuttle, on the other hand, has told his wife and family about the memorial and said they are excited to see it. Tuttle, a father of two, said he hasn't told his 5-year-old son about the statue yet. "I don't think he'd really understand anyway," the Fresno, Calif., native said. "When he's older, I'll probably take him back and tell him a little bit."

Both soldiers agree they'll probably come back to Fort Hood when they're older and show their children and grandchildren the memorial. "It's just humbling," Tuttle said. "It's weird whenever I think that they're actually going to make this ... and it's of me."

Steve Draper, 1st Cavalry Division museum curator, said one purpose of the memorial is to recognize all the soldiers of the "First Team."

"The memorial is dedicated to our soldiers who have fallen in Operation Iraqi Freedom II, but also to the soldiers who have survived and that have made up this wonderful division," Draper said. "We wanted to make a tribute to those soldiers."

Draper said he also hopes the memorial will show all the great things the division is doing in Iraq. "I think people have a different impression of what we're really doing here," he said. "I think that the press, unfortunately, doesn't show some of the great things that our division soldiers have done, and I think that this sculpture will provide them a ... sense of that," he said.



Spc. Marie Whitney

A model of the bronze statue being sculpted in Iraq by local artist is based on a photograph featuring Soldiers of the 545th Military Police Company.

"I hope that it will give a sense of closure for those who have lost people here. I think it's important for them to understand that their sons and daughters did not die in vain here, but were here for a noble cause," Draper continued.

Caponio said the sculpture will be crafted in Baghdad by an Iraqi artist who asked to remain anonymous for his own safety.

The memorial will be an area where soldiers and family members can remember fallen loved ones, Caponio said. "This will be a place, in the future, where soldiers can come and take a few moments to remember their fallen comrades," he said. "So it's a place of quiet reflection. It's a

place to remember your friends and remember their sacrifices that they made for this effort in OIF II, to set the Iraqis and the children on the road to success."

Caponio also said he hopes soldiers who served in OIF II will also be able to come and reflect upon their efforts in Baghdad. "I think, in the future, as soldiers go back and visit Fort Hood, they'll have this bronze monument to go reflect in front of and see again well into the rest of their lives," he said. "It will remind them of the sacrifices that their fellow soldiers made, as well as sacrifices they made when they were over in Iraq in OIF II with Task Force Baghdad."

Stryker performance scores high with Army leaders

Sgt. 1st Class Tammy M. Jarrett

ARNews

WASHINGTON – Speed, protection and mobility are just a few reasons Army leaders are praising the Stryker's survivability in urban combat and arctic environments.

"The Stryker is the system that is providing our Soldiers with battlefield speed, situational awareness and protection that is unmatched with any other Army system that we have," Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, director of Management and Horizontal Technology Integration, said during a Stryker media roundtable at the Pentagon Dec. 9.

Sorenson and other Department of the Army leaders held a video tele-conference with Stryker Brigade Combat Team commanders from 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash., and 172nd Infantry Brigade, Fort Wainwright, discussing the system's operational successes and lessons learned from the field.

"It's fast and quiet and tracks very well in the snow," said 172nd Commander Col. Michael Shields, via VTC from the brigade's tactical operations center. "The Soldiers have complete confidence in the weapon system. It's incredibly accurate and lethal, and it works well in the arctic environment."

The 172nd was in day seven of a war fighting exercise, using lessons learned from 3rd Bde., 2nd ID, which returned from Iraq in October, to shape its training as it undergoes transformation as the Army's third SBCT.

Stryker proves its worth

"The Soldiers have complete confidence with the survivability based on the dialogue with their counterparts in Iraq," Shields said. He said they are also impressed with the overall digital equipment capabilities.

Lt. Col. Gordie Flowers, commander of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, said the Stryker vehicles have proven their

worth in protecting Soldiers from rocket-propelled grenades and car bombs. He said while in Iraq, more than 50 percent of his Strykers were hit with RGPs and IEDs.

"No Soldiers in my battalion have been killed from either attacks in the Stryker vehicle," Flowers said. "It has provided unprecedented protection of our infantry as we moved on the battlefield. It's the perfect vehicle in an urban environment."

Lt. Col. William "Buck" James, commander of 3rd Brigade, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, said the Stryker system has unmatched mobility to both mechanically and tactically.

"It gives you armor protection to deliver that infantry squad to the point of attack-- rapidly issue orders—to be able to maneuver and gain the advantage over the enemy," James said.

Lessons learned improve Stryker capability

Although the Soldiers like the Stryker and are confident in it, officials said it isn't the perfect weapon.

Army procurement officials have taken lessons learned from Iraq and are making changes to be implemented in the near future to provide the most combat effective equipment to support Soldiers on the battlefield.

Col. Don Sando, Training and Doctrine Command system manager, said some of the midterm improvements include changes to the remote weapon station, day and night optics, laser range finder on the infantry carrier vehicle and some of the other variants. Platforms will be stabilized that new and improved weapons can be introduced.

They are also looking at weight initiatives to reduce the overall weight of the vehicle with the add-on slat armor to prevent it from getting stuck in the soft terrain in Iraq.

Other changes have already been applied to the vehicles, for example the anti-tank guided missile carrier.



Sgt. 1st Class Tammy M Jarrett

A static display of the Stryker was on hand for members of the media and Pentagon personnel to view after the Stryker media roundtable Dec. 9.

Col. Peter Fuller, Stryker project manager, said the carrier's hatch only opened to a 45-degree angle. This didn't allow the Soldiers to room to add weapons to the system or stand behind the weapons.

"We immediately modified the hatch to open all the way back to allow the Soldiers to put crew-served weapons on the back of the weapon and have people standing in the back, providing security," Fuller said.

Fuller said they have also added a swing mounted on the vehicle so Soldiers hang their crew-served weapons in the back

and are experimenting with a shield to go on the hatch to give Soldiers more protection.

Lt. Col. Steven Townsend, 3rd Bde., 2 ID commander, said he is convinced that the Stryker is ahead of its game and is exceeding the Army's expectation.

"The Soldiers know this vehicle is not perfect, but they do know and believe it's the best vehicle available and they have it to use today, Townsend said." "Our Soldiers have the confidence in the Stryker that is will provide, and get there fast and quiet."

Open wide: new dental clinic on Stewart



Spc. Robert Adams

Col. Thomas G. Horning, DENTAC commander, Sheila Tribout, project manager, and Col. John M. Kidd, Stewart garrison commander cut the ribbon to open the newly rentovated Dental Clinic #4 Dec. 7. The clinic will provide surgery and class 3 work for the division.

Spc. Robert Adams

50tj PAD

As the ribbon fell, the newly renovated dental clinic #4 officially opened its doors Dec. 7.

The \$5.2 million project, which began April 2004, finished four months earlier than expected, and will begin operations by taking over the mission of the readiness center at Dental Clinic #6.

“It came at a great time, for we will be able to get more Soldiers in chairs before they deploy,” said Sheila Tribout, Dental Clinic #4 project manager. “Everybody has been very efficient at their job and worked hard to finish way ahead of schedule.”

Before the clinic opened, dental clinic #1 and #6 (trailer) were completing the division’s class 3 work.

“By having this new clinic, it offers us more chairs to see more patients,” said Col Parker, Dental Clinic #4 officer in charge.

“Everyone has been cramming for the deployment and this facility will relieve the pressure off the other clinics,” Tribout said.

The clinic, which is 14,000 square

feet of state-of-the-art dental care equipment, has 26 dedicated to specialty care, surgery and general dentistry work. It will perform class 3 treatments for Soldiers, perform crowns, bridges and dentures (prosthodontics), root canals (endodontics), and gum work (periodontics).

“Along with the doctors and auxiliary personnel that will make up the clinic, we will activate some reserve dentists to come in for 90 days at a time to help out,” Parker said.

Col. Thomas G. Horning, DENTAC commander, thanked all those that worked hard during this project in his speech. Along with Tribout and Parker was Robert Rutkowski, Dental Clinic #4 logistics manager, who purchased all \$80,000 worth of equipment that went into the building.

“We try to provide the most top-notch quality care for the most patients that we can,” Parker said. “We want Soldier to be “Fit to Bite” and ready to go.”

The clinic is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday and to schedule an appointment call 767-9775.

DoD announces next Iraq, Afghanistan rotations

DoD News Release

WASHINGTON — The Stryker Brigade in Alaska and a brigade of the Georgia National Guard are scheduled to begin deploying to Iraq in mid-2005, along with the returning 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and 4th Infantry Division, a brigade of the 10th Mountain Division and a brigade of the 1st Infantry Division from Fort Riley, Kan.

Two other brigades of the 10th Mountain division from Fort Drum, N.Y., will deploy to Afghanistan next year along with the headquarters of the Florida National Guard’s 53rd Infantry Brigade, Defense officials announced.

Department of Defense released a partial rotation list Dec. 14 of units scheduled for deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq in

support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. As other units are identified and alerted, officials said subsequent announcements will be made.

OIF Rotation

For Operation Iraqi Freedom, the rotation is consistent with the current force structure in Iraq of 17 brigades and three division headquarters, DoD officials said. The partial troop deployment list includes:

- 48th Infantry Brigade (Separate), Georgia Army National Guard
- 172d Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska
- 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.
- 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault (division headquarters and 4 brigades),

Fort Campbell, Ky.

- 4th Infantry Division (division headquarters and 4 brigades), Fort Hood, Texas
- 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.

The 101st Airborne Division went into Iraq in March 2003 as part of the initial assault and began redeploying to Fort Campbell this past February. The 4th Infantry Division entered Iraq in April 2003 and returned to Fort Hood this past April.

The first units deploying to Iraq in the next rotation are scheduled to arrive in mid-2005, officials said, and successive units will deploy at various times through mid-2006.

OEF Rotation

For Operation Enduring Freedom, the 3rd and 4th Brigades and headquarters

elements of the Army’s 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, N.Y., will deploy to Afghanistan next year along with the headquarters of the Florida National Guard’s 53rd Infantry Brigade.

This OEF rotation is consistent with the current force structure of three brigades and a division headquarters in Afghanistan, DoD officials said. They said the first units deploying to Afghanistan are scheduled to arrive in mid-2005, and successive units will deploy at various points through mid-2006.

DoD’s goal is to increasingly pass responsibility for security and governance of Iraq and Afghanistan to the security forces of those nations, officials said. They added that U.S. force rotations may be tailored based upon changes in the security situation in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Photos by Sgt. Mike Pryor

Paratroopers from 2nd Bn., 325th Airborne Inf. Regt., 82nd Airborne Div. practice movement drills soon after arriving at Camp Stryker at Baghdad's International Airport.

82nd Airborne back in Iraq

Pfc. Mike Pryor

ARNews

BAGHDAD, Iraq — More than 1,500 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division are back in Iraq to help provide security for the country's upcoming elections.

Two battalions of the 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, the 82nd's Division-Ready Brigade, and other slice elements began deploying to Iraq from Fort Bragg, N.C., Dec. 3, only days after receiving a deployment order. The first paratroopers arrived at Baghdad International Airport Dec. 4.

When Operation Iraqi Freedom began in March 2003, the 82nd Airborne Division was there. Now, almost two years later, with a new mission, a new enemy, and new challenges to face, the 82nd is back in Iraq.

The 82nd's 3rd Battalion, 325th AIR is attached to 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team. Second Battalion is attached to the 10th Mountain Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Historically, the 82nd's mission has been to deploy rapidly and seize enemy territory by parachute assault. While its current mission in Iraq is different, the division's paratroopers are up for any challenge, said Lt. Col. Thomas Hiebert, commander of 3rd Battalion, 325th AIR.

"(The Army) expects its leaders to be able to execute all sorts of missions from offensive combat operations, to stability and support, to security operations. And I don't know anybody better qualified to do that than our paratroopers," Hiebert said.

"They understand their significance in the greater scheme of things. They know darn well why they're here.

And they are completely, totally, without a doubt, ready for anything," he said.

The paratroopers of 3rd Battalion, the majority of who are combat veterans, said their commander's confidence wasn't misplaced.

"All our leaders are seasoned guys, and I know they're going to take care of their men. Whatever the mission is, I know we're going to get it done," said Staff Sgt. Jereme Ayers, a squad leader with 3rd Battalion's Company A. He served with the 325th during its previous year-long deployment to Iraq from February 2003 to February 2004.

This will be the first combat experience for some of the battalion's younger paratroopers. Most expressed enthusiasm at the chance to serve.

"I feel like I'm actually doing what I'm supposed to be doing now. I'm glad to help out my country," said Pfc.

Max Anduze, of Headquarters Company.

Not every paratrooper had such philosophical reasons for their excitement.

"I'm happy to be here - I need the money," said Spc. Phillip Freeman from Company B, 307th Engineer Battalion. "I hope we stay for a year so I can refill my bank account."

Whatever their reasons for coming, some 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers are just glad the 82nd's paratroopers are here now.

"We're all definitely glad to have the eighty-deuce here," said Capt. Patrick Blankenship, logistics officer with the First Team's 3rd Brigade Combat Team. "They're the All-Americans."

Editor's note: Pfc. Mike Pryor serves with 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs.



Pfc. Mike Pryor

The first convoy of vehicles from 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, prepares to move out from Camp Stryker to the unit's new home in Baghdad's International Zone.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Resisting apprehension, assault consummated by a battery, impersonating an NCO, underage drinking, obstruction of justice
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 26-year-old female
- **Charges:** Forgery, larceny of private property, larceny of private or private funds
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 26-year-old male
- **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, careless or reckless driving, loud music from a vehicle, too fast for conditions, improper right turn, laying drag
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 31-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charge:** Assault consummated by battery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 34-year-old male
- **Charges:** Driving on suspended license, defective equipment, suspended registration
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 28-year-old female, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** False official statement, driving on post suspension
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family member, 24-year-old female
- **Charge:** Child neglect
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 45-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, failure to stop at posted stop sign
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Speeding, expired tag, driving under the influence
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 25-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, public drunkenness, obstruction or hindering



- law enforcement officers, criminal trespass
- **Location:** Savannah
 - **Subject:** Civilian, 22-year-old male
 - **Charge:** Battery (domestic violence)
 - **Location:** Hunter
 - **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
 - **Charges:** Housebreaking, larceny of private property, damage to private property, wrongful possession of marijuana
 - **Location:** Hunter
 - **Subject:** Private, 22-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charge:** Assault consummated by battery
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 4th Bde.
 - **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
 - **Location:** Hinesville
 - **Subject:** Private 1st Class., 27-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
 - **Charge:** Assault consummated by battery
 - **Location:** Fort Stewart
 - **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 1st Bde.
 - **Charge:** Rape

- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family member, 30-year-old female
- **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 38-year-old male
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
- **Charges:** Following too closely, failure to report, brakes required
- **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old female, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Underage drinking, criminal trespass
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 26-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Driving under the influence - less safe, driving with suspended or revoked license
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Specialist, 31-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 48-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charges:** Drunken driving
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family member, 34-year-old male
- **Charge:** Unlawful transfer to tag
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Staff Sergeant, 39-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Assault consummated by battery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charge:** Rape
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charge:** Indecent assault
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 23-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Aggravated assault, sodomy
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 23-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Reckless endangerment, driving while license suspended, driving on post suspension, attempting to elude a law enforcement officer
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 31-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine, wrongful use of amphetamines/methamphetamines
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 39-year-old male
- **Charge:** Failure to yield right of way
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 21-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charge:** Wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 35-year-old male
- **Charge:** Driving under the influence, defective headlight
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

CID Reward
A reward of \$1,000.00 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the Aggravated Assault (shooting) of a U.S. Army service member on Fort Stewart.

On Oct. 17, person(s) unknown in a dark colored, American four-door sedan with tinted windows, shot a service member in the leg with a pistol.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident, and not wanting to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality.

Those with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the U.S. Army CID office located at Fort Stewart at (912) 767-5030, or the Military Police Desk, Fort Stewart at (912) 767-4895.

Wild Adventurers
Buses depart Bldg. 443 Saturday, 8 a.m. for Wild Adventures Theme Park in Valdosta, Ga., returning 8 p.m.

The cost is \$43 per person and includes transportation

and admission. For more information call 767-8609.

Red Cross CPR Instructors
If you are a current CPR/First Aid Instructor with the American Red Cross, you need to register with the Savannah Chapter - Liberty Branch to keep your certification current.

You can call (912) 876-3975 or visit the local office in the Winn-Dixie Shopping Center between Goodwill and Pro-Feet for more information.

Finance Location Change
As part of the preparation for deployment in support of OIF III, the 3d Finance Company will provide finance support to garrison units, MEDDAC and DENTAC from the finance section in the finance section located at the Soldiers Support Center (SSC). All 3d ID units will continue to receive Finance Support from the current Customer Service in building 9118 or the finance team located within the brigades. For more information call is Capt. Langley or Master Sgt. Ramsey at 767-4680/5724.

Hunter

Christmas Toy Drive
The Hunter Commissary is conducting a Toy Drive now through Saturday to collect toys to be distributed to needy military families based at Hunter. The commissary is asking for new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls ages 2 through 12.

Contact Marcus McDonald or Linda Harrington at 352-5007/5711 for more information.

Wild Adventurers
Buses depart Outdoor Recreation Area Saturday, 8 a.m. for Wild Adventures Theme Park in Valdosta, Ga., and return at 8 p.m. The cost is \$43 per person and includes transportation and admission.

For more information call 767-8609.

Hayride lights tour
Participants meet at ACS, Monday, 6 p.m. for tour of the holiday lights on post and return at 7 p.m. for hot apple cider.

Jazzercize
Jazzercize programs are being offered at the Hunter Army Airfield Fitness Center Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-10 a.m. Classes are free; sign up

at any time. For more information call Lori O'Neill at 459-0161.

AKO Account
The advantage of using AKO, to communicate with your spouse and loved ones, over the other sites such as Yahoo and MSN, is that AKO is a secure site. Your Email and IM are protected and can not be compromised as they can be with Yahoo and MSN. With the current state of upcoming installation deployments, everyone needs to be vigilant in the content of information they send out through Emails and IM. That is why AKO should be your only means of communicating with your loved ones now and while you are deployed.

By sponsoring your spouse and loved ones with an AKO account, your communications back and forth will always be kept secure and confidential. A simple step by step Power Point presentation can be located on the Ft. Stewart Internet in the New Items section <https://intranet.stewart.army.mil/default2.htm> or <https://intranet.stewart.army.mil/doim/businessdivision/AKOGuestPresentation2004.ppt>

Winn /Tuttle

Holiday Schedule
Tuttle will be closed Dec. 23, 24 and 31. Services at Winn will be limited Dec. 23, 24 and 31. The Winn main pharmacy will be open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 23.

Update DEERS
Beneficiaries must keep their DEERS information up-to-date. Winn and Tuttle use DEERS information to contact you regarding referrals and appointments.

DEERS information can be updated by calling 1-800-538-9552, visiting: www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm or stopping by Building 253.

TRICARE Phone Numbers
For general health care information, you can call the Humana Military Audio Library at 1-877-217-7946.

If you have questions about TRICARE, you can call TRICARE at 1-800-444-5445 or the Health Benefits Office at 370-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

Third Party Insurance
Individual's social security numbers will no longer be dis-

played on health insurance cards in accordance with Georgia Senate Bill 721. Individuals with private health insurance should contact the Third Party Insurance Office at Winn upon receipt of their unique member identification numbers (policy numbers.) Call the Third Party Insurance Office at 370-6037/6947 for more information.

PX Pharmacy
The PX Satellite Pharmacy is now open for full service business. Patients may fill new prescriptions and refill prescriptions here 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

ER Remodeling
The Emergency Department will have minor disruption for remodeling. All emergencies and urgent care patients should still report to the ER. Non-emergency patients are encouraged to schedule appointments with their primary care manager.

Appointments, including same-day appointments, may be scheduled by calling 370-6633.

Marne TV

December 2004 Schedule

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every weekday.
Tune in to the Marne Report six times a day for the latest from Stewart and Hunter.

5 a.m.	Army Newswatch	1 p.m.	Air Force News
5:30 a.m.	MARNE REPORT	4:30 p.m.	Navy News
6:30 a.m.	Air Force News	5 p.m.	MARNE REPORT
7 a.m.	Navy News	6 p.m.	Army Newswatch
7:30 a.m.	Army Newswatch	6:30 p.m.	Air Force News
8 a.m.	MARNE REPORT	7 p.m.	Navy News
9 a.m.	Air Force News	10 p.m.	MARNE REPORT
9:30 a.m.	Navy News	11 p.m.	Army Newswatch
11:30 a.m.	Army Newswatch	Midnight	MARNE REPORT
Noon	MARNE REPORT		

On the Prowl

Has your child ever gotten scared walking home from school, or ever felt unsafe while outside at the park or bullied while walking home? There is a solution for those scary and unsafe feelings. McGruff Safe House Program is seeking volunteers to provide safe havens for neighborhood children in emergency or scary situations.

Why McGruff House? McGruff Crime Dog is a widely known face around the com-

munity and it has a built-in safeguard to protect children to make them feel safe. Individuals who volunteer their homes as McGruff Houses agree to make emergency phone calls for children who are in trouble, lost, or frightened. (A McGruff House is not a medical aid station, restaurant, or public restroom.)

Let us prevent victimization of our children! Who can volunteer? Any household with a

resident 18 or older who will complete, sign, and return an application which includes permission for a law enforcement background check. All applicants will be screened and those who do not pass the background check will not be accepted into the program. If you are interested in getting involved with the McGruff program or would like more information, please contact Pamela Cox at 767-5058/5059.

U.S. patrol finds weapons cache in Baghdad house

Armed Forces Press Service

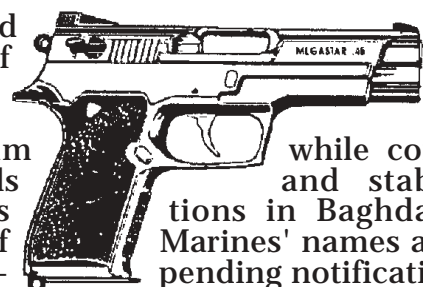
WASHINGTON — American troops on patrol in western Baghdad Dec. 13 found car bombs and other enemy ordnance during the search of a local home.

The soldiers detained two individuals at the suspected insurgent "safe house," which yielded two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices being prepared for detona-

tion.

The vehicles contained nearly 1,000 pounds of explosives, including Italian-made anti-ship bombs, three 155 mm artillery rounds, 300 pounds of ammonium nitrate, as well as a weapons cache of rockets, mortars and anti-tank weapons.

Also confiscated was a cache of medical supplies and industrial



chemicals.

In other Iraq news, two U.S. Marines were killed Dec. 13 while conducting security and stabilization operations in Baghdad province. The Marines' names are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

And in Afghanistan, coalition troops found and secured two weapons caches Dec. 13.

The cache near Kandahar included 20 pounds of unknown explosives, two hand grenade bodies and 10 blasting caps.

Coalition forces also found a weapons cache near Gereshk that contained eight AK-47 assault rifles, a rocket-propelled grenade, a machine gun and several grenades.

(Compiled from Multinational Force Iraq and Combined Forces Command Afghanistan news releases.)

Training ...

Always a vital segment for AKAL security personnel

Jennifer Wingfield

Managing Editor

Don't take AKAL security personnel for granted as you approach access control points at Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield.

Each has been through intensive and thorough background checks that included credit, employment, and criminal history. Not being deterred, AKAL has a strong force at the installations. In November there were over 300 AKAL employees working between Stewart and Hunter, with over 250 of those in a full time capacity.

Before personnel are placed at any access point, there are three weeks of classroom training and they have to undergo tests for physical agility, said Capt. Garold Williams, AKAL training manager for the Hinesville office.

"Applicants undergo the same law enforcement command certifications as their military police counterparts. This includes range and weapons qualifications with the nine millimeter Glock-17 and Masberg 12-gauge shotgun," Williams said.

One week of in-service training focuses on teaching the prospective employees about the use of force, workman's compensation, and the do's and don'ts of the

job. All training occurs on the installation.

With AKAL headquarters in Espanola, New Mexico, the Department of Labor lists the openings for Stewart and Hunter. "Prior military service, or a background in security or law enforcement is helpful, but openings are filled by the most qualified from the 300 to 500 who apply for the few positions that occur here and at Hunter," said Williams.

One of the most important qualifying factors is age. Applicants must be at least 21 years old, as that is the minimum age to handle weapons in Georgia.

After 20 years of service in the Army, Williams' last assignment was as a platoon sergeant with the 549th Military Police Company at Stewart. He fits right into the AKAL methodology with his experience.

While waiting for investigation results, prospective AKAL employees are placed at access points which not only include the gates but also the headquarters buildings and the soon to be Liberty Center.

AKAL provides all uniform attire, except leather boots, which must be purchased by the applicant, upon their selection.

Though turnovers are slow, the next expected session is scheduled for the February time frame.



Jennifer Wingfield

Sgt. Gene Orfield (left), AKAL instructor of personnel and vehicle searches, looks on as applicants undergo training.

Ready aim fire!



Spc. Ben Brody

D Company, 3rd Battalion, 15 Infantry Regiment Soldiers practice on the Engagement Skills Trainer Wednesday. The system allows troops to realistically engage targets without the use of ammunition in preparation for the M-16 rifle range.

CENTCOM News

Iraqi security forces foil two insurgent attacks

Mosul, Iraq — Iraqi Security Forces defeated two attacks in Mosul by anti-Iraqi insurgents as they attempted to seize two police stations on Dec. 14, while in other operations Multi-National Forces detained 10 people wanted for anti-Iraqi activities in northern Iraq.

Two Iraqi police stations came under attack with small arms fire during a coordinated effort by insurgent fighters to overrun the stations in western and eastern Mosul. The Iraqi police and Soldiers from the Iraqi National Guard successfully repelled the attacks, preventing a reoccurrence of the events of Nov. 10 when many police stations were abandoned and later looted.

This is the third and fourth time since then where insurgents have tried but failed to take police stations, proving that the Iraqi Security Forces are growing stronger each day.

First Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment Soldiers conducted a cordon and search in southeast Mosul and detained nine people suspected of planning and conducting attacks against MNF and ISF. The suspects are in custody with no injuries reported during the operation.

Second Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment Soldiers conducted a cordon and search just west of Tal Afar and detained one person wanted for anti-Iraqi activities. During a search of a residence, several weapons and a large amount of ammunition were confiscated. MNF reported no injuries during the operation.

Soldiers from the Iraqi National Guard foiled a roadside bomb attack when they noticed suspicious wires protruding from a barrier near a checkpoint in Tal Afar. After further investigation, the wires led to two 122 mm rounds, which an explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed in place.

Friendly fire investigation concludes

MACDILL AFB, Tampa — The investigation into the April 2, 2003 shoot down of a Navy F/A-18, resulting in the death of Lt. Nathan White, is complete. The U.S. Central Command directed investigation concluded that this unfortunate incident was the result of friendly fire when a U.S. Army Patriot missile battery launched two missiles at what was perceived to be a hostile threat.

The U.S. Central Command regrets the loss of life and expresses condolences to the family members. Forces will use the results of the investigation to avoid future occurrences.

Soldier sentenced to three years in prison

CAMP AL-TAHREER, Baghdad, Iraq — A Task Force Baghdad Soldier convicted here for murdering an Iraqi civilian was sentenced Dec. 10 to three years in prison, reduction to the rank of private (E-1), forfeiture of all pay and a dishonorable discharge.

Staff Sgt. Johnny M. Horne pled guilty to one specification of murder

in violation of Article 118 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and one specification of conspiracy to commit murder in violation of Article 81.

A panel of seven senior service members passed the sentence at 11:30 p.m., after hearing testimony from the prosecution and the defense.

They deliberated for approximately four hours before reaching their decision.

The convictions stemmed from Horne's murder of a severely wounded Iraqi civilian in Baghdad's Sadr City district

Insurgents use hospital as base of attack against Soldiers

RAMADI, Iraq — Vice Soldiers from the 1st Marine Division of the Marine Expeditionary Force were ambushed by insurgents operating in and near the Ar Ramadi General

Hospital and Medical College on Dec. 10.

Some of the muzzle flashes of insurgent firing positions were observed as originating from windows within the hos-

pital.

The insurgents turned off all of the lights in and around the hospital as the Soldiers approached the hospital. Insurgents fired rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire from both sides of the road at the Soldiers as soon as the lights of the hospital were turned back on.

Soldiers pushed through the ambush, returning defensive fire, some of which was aimed at insurgents in the hospital.

There were no US casualties.

Marines from 1st Marine Division will return to speak with hospital administrators as well as to assess and investigate the events.

The Marines, Soldiers and Sailors of the 1st Marine Division of the I Marine Expeditionary Force stand committed to enhancing security and stability for the citizens of Ramadi and the Al Anbar Province in advance of the upcoming elections in January 2005.

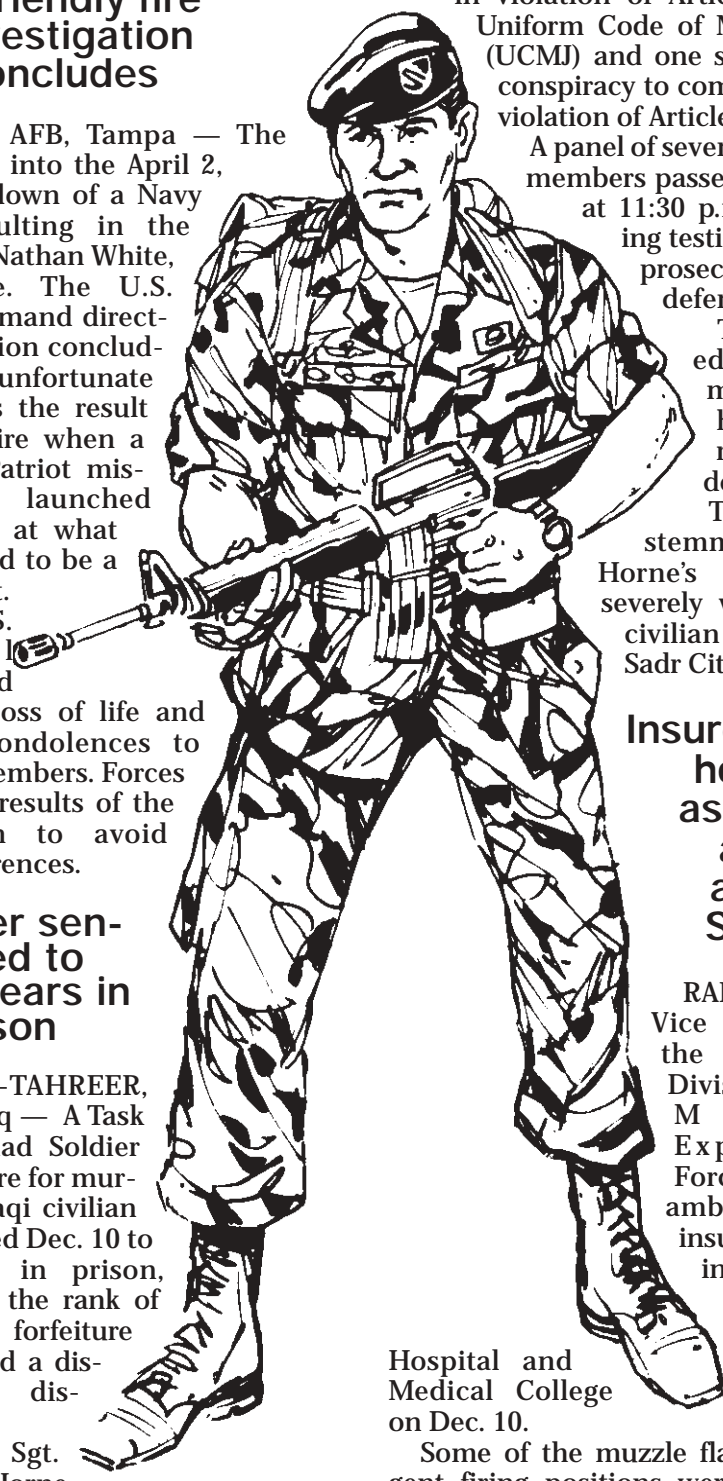
Iraqi police graduate 914 from basic training

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi Police Service graduated 914 officers from Basic Police Training Courses at the Baghdad Public Safety Academy, Dec. 9, as the Iraqi government continues the police force training effort in the country.

The graduation — including the completion of training for 52 female officers — marked the completion of the eight week training course IPS recruits with no police experience now negotiate before reporting for duty. Prior-service experience officers attend a three week "transition integration program" course of instruction.

IPS basic training runs recruits through instruction in the fundamental basics of policing skills, techniques and ideals of law enforcement in a free society.

All graduates will deploy for immediate duty at stations throughout the county.



Gift of Groceries offers unique way to celebrate the season

Bonnie Powell
DeCA

FORT LEE, Va. — Anyone can show support for military families this holiday season with a “Gift of Groceries.”

“Whether it’s for a national or installation charity, families of deployed service members, or simply as a gift for your neighbor, the general public can help support military families with commissary gift certificates,” said Patrick B. Nixon, acting director and chief executive officer of the Defense Commissary Agency. “Since the program began in the fall of 2002, nearly \$5 million in commissary gift certificates has been given as gifts or donated to military families.”

During the holidays in particular, gift certificates have proven to be handy for food basket programs by allowing recipients to purchase the groceries they need and prefer, rather than getting food items they might not be able to use. “And since commissaries sell food at cost, military families save an average of 30 percent or more by using their commissary benefit,” said Nixon. “That’s critical for families on a tight budget — at the holidays or any time of the year!”

The public can also donate gift certificates to worldwide organizations that

assist military families such as the USO, Air Force Aid Society and Fisher House Foundation. Since the “Gift of Groceries” program began, nearly \$130,000 has been donated to those specific charities.

“The commissary gift certificates are obviously appreciated and used by families staying at Fisher Houses worldwide,” said Jim Weiskopf, vice president of communications for Fisher House Foundation. Fisher Houses are comfort homes located near military medical facilities.

“Most donated certificates are being used to buy groceries for families staying


at our homes while their loved ones recover from injuries sustained in Afghanistan or Iraq.”

The “Gift of Groceries” program is made possible through a business agreement with CertifiChecks Inc. at no cost to DeCA or the federal government. The program allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates through a link at <http://www.commissaries.com> or by calling toll free 1-877-770-GIFT. The certificates can be given as gifts or donated, but only authorized commissary shoppers can spend them. A standard charge of \$4.95, paid by the purchaser, covers the costs of handling, printing and mailing. Additional charges may apply for large orders or special delivery.

Gift certificates, in \$25 denominations, are now available in all 273 commissaries worldwide. The availability of gift certificates in stores is intended as a customer convenience — filling the need for a last minute gift. A handling fee of \$1 per \$25 certificate offsets printing, shipping and handling costs, and only cash or check is accepted on gift certificates acquired directly through a commissary customer service office.



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